

Application No. 10/748,871  
Amendment dated December 20, 2010  
Reply to final Office Action of October 20, 2010

Remarks/Arguments:

This amendment does not cancel any claims, and is provided to add new dependent claim 61, and amend claims 1 and 3 only. However, in doing so, no new matter has been added or suggested. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-61 will be pending, wherein claims 1, 3 and 57 are independent, and claims 57-60 are withdrawn.

Miscellaneous

The Examiner is thanked for the acknowledgement of receipt of all certified copies of the priority documents, and acceptance of the drawings.

Rejections of the Claims under 35 U.S.C. 103

The Examiner has maintained the rejection of claims 1-3, 5, 9, 12-17, 19-24, 28, 29, 32, 36, 39-44, 46-51, 55 and 56 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0001704 of Chan et al. (hereinafter Chan) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,833,848 of Wolff et al. (hereinafter Wolff), U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0048848 of Li et al. (hereinafter Li) and newly cited U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0031181 of Rowley et al. (hereinafter Rowley).

Specifically, the Examiner again points to Chan as disclosing an image recording/reproducing apparatus which records and reproduces a plurality of still image files and sound files with respect to a recording medium and provides a display apparatus with a screen of play list indicating sound files being currently reproduced, including a decoder for decoding the still image files and the sound files recorded in the recording apparatus, and a memory for storing the still image files and the sound files as decoded.

The Examiner points to Wolff as disclosing such an image recording/reproducing apparatus further having a main control unit for performing a process operation such that a display menu is displayed in a first predetermined area of the screen of play list, wherein the display menu comprises at least one instruction icon to set and reproduce an alternating display such that the plurality of still image files recorded in the recording apparatus are alternately displayed, and when the instruction icon is selected during the reproducing of the

sound files stored in the memory, one or more files among the stored still image files are alternately displayed as commanded on a second predetermined area of the screen of play list indicating sound files as commanded by the selection of the instruction icon.

The Examiner points to Li as disclosing such an image recording/reproducing apparatus still further having a decoder for decoding and storing the plurality of still image files, such that the plurality of still image files recorded in the recording apparatus are decoded and stored in the memory while the decoder is idle.

The Examiner points to newly cited Rowley as disclosing such an image recording/reproducing apparatus still further having a main control unit for proving a display menu comprising at least one instruction icon to *both set a reproduction mode and command a reproduction* of an alternating display such that the plurality of still image files recorded in the recording medium are *alternately and automatically displayed*, such that the combination of the Chan, Wolff, Li and Rowley references purportedly render obvious the system and method as recited by the Applicants in independent claims 1 and 3.

In regard to newly cited Rowley, a system and method is described which can simulate a network communication session after the session has occurred. To do so, the system and method captures and stores packets, which can be retrieved, ordered and provided to a display to recreate the communication session. The Fig. 7 of Rowley illustrates a representation of how such a session can be displayed. The display of Fig. 7 further provides command buttons 701 to be used to control the display process. The buttons shown include commands first, back, play, next, last and stop. At least one feature of the system and method is the automatic determination of the user's actual time between packets, and the display based thereon.

As noted in the previous response, the Applicants recite a system and method wherein a display menu, displayed in a first predetermined area of the screen of play list, comprises at least one instruction icon to set and reproduce an alternating display, such that the plurality of still image files recorded in the recording medium are alternately displayed. Specifically, with reference to the exemplary description of Applicants' Fig. 44 and Fig. 45, the exemplary

instruction icon comprises an instruction icon to both set and reproduce a slideshow with a plurality of still images recorded in the recording apparatus.

The Applicants recite a system and method wherein a controller is configured to provide screen of play list with at least a first and second predetermined area, such that the display menu is displayed in a first predetermined area of the screen of play list, and comprises at least one instruction icon to both set and reproduce an alternating display, such that the plurality of still image files recorded in the recording apparatus are alternately displayed. The system and method is further configured to, when the instruction icon of the display menu is selected during the reproducing of the sound files stored in the memory, alternately display one or more files among the stored still image files as commanded on a second predetermined area of the screen of play list indicating sound files (see for example, Applicants' Fig. 44, wherein the instruction icons 2110 occupy a first predetermined area of the screen of play list and the slide show window 2120 occupies a second predetermined area of the screen of play list). In doing so, the first predetermined area is an area for displaying a display menu including one or more instruction icons for executing a slide show, and the second predetermined area of the screen of play list is an area for showing still image files as a slide show as commanded by the instruction icon.

For example, the Applicants' Fig. 44 illustrates one example of the first predetermined area, that is, the area of the slide show instruction icons 2110, and illustrates one example of the second predetermined area, that is, the area of the reference numeral 2120. In doing so, the exemplary screen of play list recited by the Applicants describes the display of the sound file being played at a left side, and the first predetermined area describes an area for displaying a display menu including one or more instruction icons, that is for example, the "repeat all" instruction icon, and the "slide show" instruction icon, to command the alternating display of the plurality of still image files at the second predetermined area. These icons are provided not as buttons, but instruction icons of the display area and more specifically, instruction icons of the first predetermined area of the display area.

However, the Applicants describe a system and method wherein, when the instruction icon of the display menu is selected during the reproducing of the sound files stored in the

memory, the plurality of still image files recorded in the *same file* in the recording medium are decoded and stored in the memory *while the decoder is idle*, and one or more files among the stored still image files are alternately displayed on a second predetermined area of the screen of play list indicating sound files as commanded by the selection of the instruction icon.

In contrast, none of the Wolff, Chan, Li and Rowley references describe such use of the decoder during idle periods. That is, none of the Wolff, Chan, Li and Rowley references describe the decoding and reproduction of sound files and decoding and reproduction of image files of the *same file* when the decoder *is idle*. The Applicants have amended the claims to clarify the system and method as recited. This is not new matter, and is recited elsewhere in the specification (see for example, paragraphs 327 and 328).

In regard to the image and sound files of the same file, the Examiner points to Wolff as describing such. However, the Wolff reference simply describes photographs and associated audio clips (see col. 10, lines 34-38). However, there is no description of the decoder control (i.e. decoding and reproduction of files when the decoder is idle) for providing each.

Further, in regard to the use of the decoder in the idle state, the Examiner points to Li as describing such. Li describes a system and method of decoding efficiency, wherein multiple decoders operate, and a secondary decoder is utilized if idle and buffering lengths of a master decoder exceed a certain value. In doing so, Li describes the efficient use of multiple decoders. In contrast, the Applicants recite single decoder control for decoding both the still image files and the sound files recorded in the recording medium. In doing so, priority is assigned, and idle time of the single decoder is used for the image files. Such a decoder and use of idle decoder time is not described by the system and method of Li. Further, the Applicants have added new dependent claim 61 to recite additional features of such a single decoder and single decoder control, which is not described by the system and method of Li.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, the Applicants assert that the Wolff, Chan, Li and Rowley references do not disclose or reasonably suggest, separately or in combination,

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each element as recited by the Applicants in independent claims 1 and 3, and respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Regarding dependent claims 2, 5, 9, 12-17, 19-24, 28, 29, 32, 36, 39-44, 46-51, 55 and 56, the Examiner, in addition to the reasons stated above, further points to Wolff, Chan, Li and Rowley as disclosing the subject matter of each, purportedly anticipating the system and method as recited by the Applicants.

However, for the reasons stated above, the Applicants assert that Wolff, Chan, Li and Rowley references do not disclose or reasonably suggest, separately or in combination, each element as recited by the Applicants in independent claims 1 and 3, from which claims 2, 5, 9, 12-17, 19-24, 28, 29, 32, 36, 39-44, 46-51, 55 and 56 depend. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of dependent claims 2, 5, 9, 12-17, 19-24, 28, 29, 32, 36, 39-44, 46-51, 55 and 56 for the same reasons.

The Examiner has also maintained the rejection of claims 4, 30 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chan in view of Wolff, Li, Rowley and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0033889 of Miyazaki (hereinafter Miyazaki), and has maintained the rejection of claims 6 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chan in view of Wolff, Li, Rowley and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0056434 of Kaplan et al. (hereinafter Kaplan).

However, for the reasons stated above, the Applicants assert that the Wolff, Chan, Li and Rowley references do not disclose or reasonably suggest, separately or in combination, each element as recited by the Applicants in independent claims 1 and 3, from which claims 4, 6, 30, 31 and 33 depend. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of dependent claims 4, 6, 30, 31 and 33 for the same reasons.

The Examiner has also maintained the rejection of claims 7 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chan in view of Wolff, Li, Rowley and U.S. Patent

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Publication No. 2002/0136539 of Nakaya (hereinafter Nakaya), and has maintained the rejection of claims 8 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chan in view of Wolff, Li, Rowley and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0012522 of Kawakami et al. (hereinafter Kawakami).

The Examiner has also maintained the rejection of claims 10, 11, 37 and 38 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chan in view of Wolff, Li, Rowley and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0123853 of Iwahara et al. (hereinafter Iwahara), and has maintained the rejection of claims 18 and 45 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chan in view of Wolff, Li, Rowley and U.S. Patent No. 7,315,389 of Kuwata et al. (hereinafter Kuwata).

However, for the reasons stated above, the Applicants assert that the Wolff, Chan, Li and Rowley references do not disclose or reasonably suggest, separately or in combination, each element as recited by the Applicants in independent claims 1 and 3, from which claims 7, 8, 10, 11, 18, 34, 35, 37, 38 and 45 depend. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of dependent claims 7, 8, 10, 11, 18, 34, 35, 37, 38 and 45 for the same reasons.

The Examiner has also maintained the rejection of claims 25 and 52 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chan in view of Wolff, Li, Rowley and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0141580 of Okuyama (hereinafter Okuyama), and has maintained the rejection of claims 26 and 53 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chan in view of Wolff, Li, Rowley and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0055465 of Inoue (hereinafter Inoue). The Examiner has also maintained the rejection of claims 27 and 54 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chan in view of Wolff, Li, Rowley and U.S. Patent No. 5,969,719 of Tsujimoto (hereinafter Tsujimoto).

However, for the reasons stated above, the Applicants assert that the Wolff, Chan, Li and Rowley references do not disclose or reasonably suggest, separately or in combination, each element as recited by the Applicants in independent claims 1 and 3, from which claims 25-27 and 52-54 depend. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of

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the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of dependent claims 25-27 and 52-54 for the same reasons.

Conclusion

In view of the above, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance and notice to this effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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